

118. (Twice Amended) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an amino acid sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acids encoded by a hepatitis C virus genome.

119. (Twice Amended) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an HCV polypeptide sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acid encoded by an HCV cDNA insert in the lambda gt-11 library deposited as ATCC deposit No. 40394.

122 132. (Amended) A method according to any of claims 118, 119 and 123-125, wherein said biological samples are blood.

133 138. (Amended) A method according to any of claims 118, 119 and 123-125, wherein said biological samples are plasma.

144 144. (Amended) A method according to any of claims 118, 119 and 123-125, wherein said biological samples are sera.

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank Supervisory Examiner Michael Woodward for the telephone interview. Applicants understand that the canceled subject matter in this application can be added to the co-owned related application USSN 08/441,443.

CONCLUSION

Applicants earnestly believe that they are entitled to a letters patent on the pending claims, and respectfully solicit the Examiner to expedite prosecution of this patent application to issuance. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned. If the Examiner determines that the claims are not allowable, Applicants request an opportunity to interview the Examiner.